

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05561 231342Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
TRSE-00 /056 W  
-----240323Z 106306 /60

R 231315Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3504  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 5561

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, JM  
SUBJECT: JAMAICA CALM AS CHRISTMAS APPROACHES

1. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, JAMAICA HAS REMAINED CALM SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF ITS PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS LAST WEEK. CREDIT FOR THIS HAPPY STATE OF AFFAIRS GOES IN THE MAIN TO THE DECISION OF THE "COMPETENT AUTHORITY" UNDER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY (SOE) TO EXTEND BEYOND THE ELECTION THE BAN ON MEETINGS, PROCESSIONS, MARCHES AND LIKE GATHERINGS. THE MOVE PUT A VERY DISTINCT DAMPER ON THOSE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE SOUGHT TO CELEBRATE VICTORY BY HARASSING THEIR OPPONENTS AND THOSE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE SOUGHT TO EASE THE PAIN OF DEFEAT THROUGH REVENGEFUL ACTS. AS IT WAS, LITTLE HAS HAPPENED, AND RELATIVE CALM HAS PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND.

2. PERHAPS THE CLEAREST INDICATOR OF THE PRESENT AURA OF CALM HAS BEEN THE DECISION TO RELEASE THE 3RD BATTALION (RESERVE) OF THE JAMAICA REGIMENT FROM ACTIVE DUTY. FALLING ONLY SLIGHTLY BEHIND WAS  
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THE DECISION TO RELEASE 21 PERSONS HELD IN  
DETENTION UNDER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY (KINGSTON 5555).

3. WHETHER WE CAN COUNT ON CONTINUED QUIET IS  
PROBLEMATIC. LAST NIGHT (DECEMBER 21) A FACTORY  
OWNED BY THE FAMILY OF DOUGLAS VAZ AND MANAGED BY

THE SUCCESSFUL JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) CANDI-  
DATE FROM NORTH CENTRAL ST. ANDREW HIMSELF WAS  
SEVERELY DAMAGED BY FIRE; THE LOSS HAS BEEN  
ESTIMATED AT \$250,000. WHILE THE ORIGIN OF THE  
FIRE IS "UNKNOWN", SUSPICION WILL BE WIDESPREAD THAT  
IT WAS AN ACT OF REVENGE OVER VAZ'S UPSET VICTORY  
IN THE ELECTION. MOREOVER, IT WILL BE SEEN AS AN  
AUGURY OF AN EARLY RETURN TO "TROUBLE AS USUAL"  
UNLESS FIRM EVIDENCE OF AN ACCIDENTAL CAUSE IS  
DEMONSTRATED.  
GERARD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976KINGST05561  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, JM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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